

President George w. Bush gave his farewell address to the nation tonight, wishing his successor well and dwelling on the fact that there has not been a terrorist attack on the United States since the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy.

America has gone more than seven years without another terrorist attack on our soil,” he said, standing in the East Room, the scene of many formal presidential news conferences. “This is a tribute to those who toil day and night to keep us safe – law enforcement officers, intelligence analysts, homeland security and diplomatic personnel, and the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.” You can watch and read the full speech [here](#).

Two of Bush’s fellow Republicans – Reps. John Campbell and Ed Royce - thought it wise that Bush stressed that accomplishment.

“Whether or like him or whether you agree with all, none or some of what he did he did he is a good man, a decent man and a genuine man who always did what he thought was best and I think that came through clearly tonight,” said Campbell, R-Irvine. “He did, as he said, keep us safe for seven years.”

Bush faced an audience of his family, present and former Cabinet members and citizens he invited and referred to in his speech for their bravery, volunteering and the mother of who son, a police officer, died on 9/11.

Royce suggested that where Bush fell down during his presidency was his ineffectiveness as a communicator and his failure to keep government spending in check.

“The overspending, the failure to focus and lead the country toward trying to constraint spending, not only disappointed conservatives but also left the country in a position where it was not as strong as it would have been if he had behaved in a conservative manner,” said Royce, R-Fullerton

When I asked Royce where he would rank the George W. Bush presidency he said “not in the upper tier.”

Campbell said it's too early to be certain how this 43rd president will be judged but that in the areas of national security and foreign "may judge him kindly and less so on the economic front."